

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANAHEIM EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL IMMIGRATION REFORM AND URGING THE 113TH CONGRESS TO ENACT REFORMS THAT SECURE OUR BORDERS, ENSURE ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND PROMOTE STRONGER COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, The City of Anaheim recognizes the economic, social and cultural contributions immigrants bring to their communities and, in particular, to the City of Anaheim; and

WHEREAS, since the City's founding over 150 years ago, immigrants have had a significant role in Anaheim's cultural and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of municipal leaders is to protect the well-being and safety of all people residing in their cities; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of our local leaders to respect the rights of, and provide equal services to, all individuals, regardless of national origin or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, our nation's immigration and border security policies are federal responsibilities that are in desperate need of reform; and

WHEREAS, a talented workforce made up of both skilled and unskilled labor is a key driver of our local economy; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for an improved program that provides the City's businesses the opportunity to employ foreign workers, when necessary, to improve economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, family unity is a component of a strong economy, and re-unification of families has been a key part of federal immigration policy for almost fifty years; and

WHEREAS, there is broad support and collaboration among both business and labor groups to promote comprehensive immigration reform that provides sensible and effective solutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City Council of the City of Anaheim, California, urges the United States Congress to adopt and enact comprehensive immigration reform that includes the following principles:

1. Providing a path to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants who live in the United States today.
2. Continued focus on securing our international borders, in conjunction with immigration reform initiatives that allow for practical border controls.

3. Establishing an improved visa program, such as the proposed W-Visa, to provide our businesses with the ability to hire certain categories of foreign workers when legal residents are unavailable or unwilling to fill jobs.
4. Creating a methodology that accurately assesses labor market needs in order to determine the number of foreign workers to be admitted for employment purposes annually.
5. Increasing efforts to advance workforce talent outreach internationally and strengthening programs in domestic science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) training, to improve ongoing economic competitiveness, while also promoting legal immigration opportunities.
6. Creating a streamlined process to resolve the backlog of existing visa applications and developing methods to ensure the efficient processing of future immigration applications in a timely manner, which will expedite re-unification of families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the Honorable Members of the 113th Congress representing the City of Anaheim.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION is approved and adopted by the City Council of the City of Anaheim this _____ day of _____, 2013, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

CITY OF ANAHEIM

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ANAHEIM

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF ANAHEIM